

Summer Reading 2018—Grade Six Book Choices

Non-Fiction

Hoose, Phillip

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club (Lexile Unknown)

Ashamed of the Danish government's response to the German occupation during World War II, Knud Pedersen and his brother organize a secret group named the Churchill Club to resist the Nazis in dangerous acts of sabotage. Eventually the teens are imprisoned, but their bravery sparks further resistance efforts in Denmark. Hoose interviewed Pedersen and his voice resonates throughout this compelling narrative.

Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Young Readers Edition) (Lexile 860)

With patience and perseverance, self-taught William Kamkwamba builds a windmill of salvaged metal and bicycle parts in drought-stricken Malawi. Kamkwamba's spirit and voice flow through this skillful adaptation, as Mealer imparts the inspiring story of a young teen who provides his village with water and electricity, saving them from crop failure and starvation.

Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem

Becoming Kareem: Growing Up On and Off the Court (Lexile 990)

At one time, Lew Alcindor was just another kid from New York City with all the usual problems: He struggled with fitting in, with pleasing a strict father, and with overcoming shyness that made him feel socially awkward. But with a talent for basketball, and an unmatched team of supporters, Lew Alcindor was able to transform and to become Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. From a childhood made difficult by racism and prejudice to a record-smashing career on the basketball court as an adult, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's life was packed with "coaches" who taught him right from wrong and led him on the path to greatness. His parents, coaches Jack Donahue and John Wooden, Muhammad Ali, Bruce Lee, and many others played important roles in Abdul-Jabbar's life and sparked him to become an activist for social change and advancement.

Osborne, Linda Barrett

This Land Is Our Land: A History of American Immigration (Lexile 1080)

Immigrants arriving in the U.S. have, more often than not, been met with suspicion, anger, and prejudice. Opponents of immigration argue that immigrants take jobs away from U.S. citizens, don't deserve to be here, and should be sent back to where they came from—a prevalent attitude that has, as this book shows, target groups including Hispanics, the Irish, and Asians. The topic is current and this book gives timely background information that is especially needed today.

Stone, Tanya Lee

Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream (Lexile 980) In the early 1960s, the doctor in charge of testing NASA's astronauts decided to find out if female pilots were capable of passing the grueling qualification tests required of male pilots. Feasible? Yes. Allowed? No. All testing of women's potential for the Mercury program was done outside NASA's purview and without their permission. The reasons why will stun readers.

Fiction

Connor, Leslie

***All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook* (Lexile 540)**

Leslie Connor, award-winning author of *Waiting for Normal* and *Crunch*, comes a soaring and heartfelt story about love, forgiveness, and how innocence makes us all rise up. *All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook* is a powerful story, perfect for fans of *Wonder* and *When You Reach Me*. Eleven-year-old Perry was born and raised by his mom at the Blue River Co-ed Correctional Facility in tiny Surprise, Nebraska. His mom is a resident on Cell Block C, and so far Warden Daugherty has made it possible for them to be together. That is, until a new district attorney discovers the truth—and Perry is removed from the facility and forced into a foster home. When Perry moves to the “outside” world, he feels trapped. Desperate to be reunited with his mom, Perry goes on a quest for answers about her past crime. As he gets closer to the truth, he will discover that love makes people resilient no matter where they come from . . . but can he find a way to tell everyone what home truly means?

Nielsen, Jennifer A.

***A Night Divided* (Lexile 810)**

With the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, to think forbidden thoughts of freedom, yet she can't help herself. She sees the East German soldiers with their guns trained on their own citizens; she, her family, her neighbors and friends are prisoners in their own city. But one day, while on her way to school, Gerta spots her father on a viewing platform on the western side, pantomiming a peculiar dance. Then, when she receives a mysterious drawing, Gerta puts two and two together and concludes that her father wants Gerta and Fritz to tunnel beneath the wall, out of East Berlin. However, if they are caught, the consequences will be deadly. No one can be trusted. Will Gerta and her family find their way to freedom?

Draper, Sharon M.

***Out of My Mind* (Lexile 700)**

From multiple award-winning author Sharon Draper comes a story that will forever change how we all look at anyone with a disability, perfect for fans of RJ Palacio's *Wonder*. Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Most people—her teachers, her doctor's, her classmates—dismiss her as mentally challenged because she can't tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.

Kelly, Erin Entrada

***Hello, Universe* (Lexile 690)**

Hello, Universe is a funny and poignant neighborhood story about unexpected friendships. Told from four intertwining points of view—two boys and two girls—the novel celebrates bravery, being different, and finding your inner bayani (hero).

Griffin, Paul

When Friendship Followed Me Home (Lexile 590)

Ben Coffin has never been one for making friends. As a former foster kid, he knows people can up and leave without so much as a goodbye. Ben prefers to spend his time with the characters in his favorite sci-fi books...until he rescues an abandoned mutt from the alley next-door to the Coney Island Library. Scruffy little Flip leads Ben to befriend a fellow book-lover named Halley—yes, like the comet—a girl unlike anyone he has ever met. Ben begins thinking of her as “Rainbow Girl” because of her crazy-colored clothes and her laugh, pure magic, the kind that makes you smile away the stormiest day. Rainbow Girl convinces Ben to write a novel with her. But as their story unfolds Ben’s life begins to unravel, and Ben must discover for himself the truth about friendship and the meaning of home.